

* The Farm. *

Plenty of Good Food.

There is no mistake about it, but people who work on a farm must have plenty of well cooked food. Their exertions are so great that the repair of their bodies will not exceed the waste if this is not the case.

The meanest farmer's wife I ever knew (and she didn't know she was mean, for she thought she was doing her religious duty in helping her husband save) half cooked the food, so the farm hands wouldn't eat so much. Her bread must not be too light or flaky, or it disappeared too fast, and it was such economy to over-salt the butter, as it not only added to the weight, but made it impossible to use so much on the bread. All the milk drank must be skimmed, and if the meat and vegetables are underdone they were not tender enough to be eaten up too fast.

Well, it so happened that one summer this woman had taken sick and had to have a girl. A great, strong woman came—one who could not hold a candle to the farmer's wife in nice house-keeping, but she was a good cook.

The first day the men drew their chairs around the accustomed fare for Monday—corn bread and butter, boiled salt pork, potatoes and fried apples—and the way those men ate told how much they were enjoying their meal. Nearly everything was swept clean, but the men left the table in an hilarious mood and attacked the afternoon's work as never before. And so it was with everything Mary cooked. Her greatest trouble was to cook enough to supply the demand.

When the farmer's wife got so she could come out into the kitchen she watched the cooking going on in some surprise, and in a burst of confidence that night told her husband that they would surely go to rack and ruin, as Mary was the most extravagant cook she ever knew.

"Oh no, I guess not," said her husband, soothingly. "She never throws anything away, but makes it over in some inviting way. I really think she has the art of cooking down fine, though she can't come anywhere near to you in giving those dainty touches to everything that makes life so comfortable and homelike."

"But, James," pleaded his wife, "I actually caught her frying apples in butter and sifting sugar over them, and she puts eggs and shortening in cornbread and boils and boils the pork until there is scarcely any left of it."

"Well, never mind, wife; I guess we can afford it. We raise nearly everything ourselves, and I never got so much work out of the men in my life before, and not one has mentioned leaving since Mary has been here. We would consider it very poor policy to half-feed our stock; then how much more so to underfeed human beings."

"Well, just as you say, James; but you'll see how we will come out of the small end of the horn at the end of the year."

But strange to relate, when the day of reckoning came, and the farmer's wife said they were \$300 out of pocket on account of her sickness and the hiring of a girl, the farmer declared that he had never had such good crops before, and that he was a good \$500 in pocket. "And, Anna," he continued, "I think we had best keep that woman another year. There is too much work for you. We've been a little stingy about feeding our hands heretofore, but it doesn't pay. Our hired girl has taught us the lesson."—(Mrs. A. E. C. Maskell.

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Scrub Diarymen.

We hear much of scrub cows and scrub stock of other kinds, and farmers are urged to get rid of such with all possible speed, as though this were all that is necessary to improve our herds. But is it not a fact that scrub cows result from scrubby treatment? If so, we need to improve our methods of handling cows before we can expect to make much progress in improving them.

Whether a dairyman is a scrub or a pure bred will be told by his herd. If he is a scrub he will give his cows scrubby treatment, and he is bound to have, sooner or later, a herd of scrub cows, even though every cow is registered and her pedigree can be traced to foundation stock. On the other hand, a thoroughbred dairyman will take scrub cows and in the course of a few years will develop from these individuals and their progeny a herd that will compare with many composed of registered stock. Doing the best with what we have will usually bring pretty satisfactory results.—(Colman's Rural World.

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Cattle Disease in Argentina.

The authorities in Argentina are naturally much concerned at the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in their country, and are adopting vigorous measures for its suppression. Herds are being slaughtered and burned in some cases, and isolated in others, and movements of animals are restricted in many districts. It is to be feared, however, that the disease is too wide-spread to be stamped out quickly, and the chances are that it will run all over the country and remain in it for years. Some estanciaeros say it is an open secret that the malady has prevailed in Argentina for some time, the owners of infected animals having concealed the existence of the disease for fear of the loss that a declaration would entail, and in some cases, it is said, affected cattle have been sold. One account states that as long ago as February fifteen hundred animals on one estancia were suffering from the disease.—(London Standard.

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